

[Mr. EWING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ACLU AT IT AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday in one of our Nation's leading daily newspapers, the Christian Science Monitor, was this paragraph:

"The ACLU is at it again. The organization that opposes school uniforms, obstructs teen curfews, fights metal detectors at airports, and challenges restrictions on child pornography is now turning its legal firepower against single-sex public schools."

As the headline in the Monitor said, "Single-sex schools are a form of diversity." The Christian Science Monitor is not a conservative publication. Also, even many liberals like columnist William Raspberry and others have praised single-sex schools.

People should be free to go to any type of school they want to go to or their parents want them to go to. But everyone should realize how elitist and left wing the ACLU has become, how out of step with the American people it is. It basically has become an organization that is supported by rich socialists.

They fight against school prayer and in favor of child pornography. What a group. Then they try to portray themselves as a pro bono public interest group and then demand \$6.7 million, \$450 an hour, for legal work in their suit against the Citadel. The ACLU charged \$105,000 just to prepare the bill in that case, so now all the students at the Citadel will have to pay higher fees for their college education, thanks to the ACLU.

While I am speaking about the type of education our children receive and the choices or options they have, let me also mention last week's White House Conference on Day Care. Columnists Linda Chavez and Mona Charen both wrote about this conference and the harmful effects of placing small children into institutional day care.

Linda Chavez wrote, "From everything we know about child development, it's a good thing more children, especially infants, are not being cared for in institutional settings. Babies and very young children need the kind of personal attention and care giving that is impossible to find in a day care center no matter how well-intentioned or well-meaning the staff."

She quoted Dr. Stanley Greenspan, a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at George Washington University, who wrote recently in the Washington Post, "In the rush to improve and increase child care, we are ignoring a more fundamental reality: Much of the child care available for infants and toddlers in this country simply isn't good for them."

Among his reasons were a lack of continuity with one care giver and lack of prolonged interactions between child and adult. In other words, babies and small children need, desperately need and desperately want, much more individualized attention than is possible even in the best, most expensive day care center.

Mona Charen went on to write: "American families are creative. Though we hear endless calls for more and better child care, 66.7 percent of mothers with children under age 6 are full-time mothers or are employed part-time. They are not crying out for more institutional child care. What they do need are tax breaks, flex-time, work-at-home options, telecommuting and job sharing."

She goes on to say this: "The notion of a child care crisis is a myth. We now have expert testimony like that of Dr. Greenspan and other experts cited by the Clintons themselves to bolster the common-sense intuition that parents are the best guardians of young children. The goal of public policy ought to be to ensure that as many parents as possible are free to make that choice."

The thing that would help children the most, Mr. Speaker, would be to drastically decrease the cost of government. Today the average person is paying almost half of his or her income in taxes of all types, Federal, State and local.

Thus, as several commentators have noted, today one spouse has to work to support the government while the other spouse works to support the family. Many families who would like to spend more time with their children simply do not have the option because of our big government, the Nanny State we have created. Our children would be far better off today, Mr. Speaker, if we drastically downsized our government and drastically decreased its cost and left more money for parents to spend on their own children and less on government bureaucrats. Our children will be far better off with less government and more time with and attention from their parents.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 4 YEARS MAKES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, this last weekend as I do most weekends, I went back to my home State of South Dakota and had the opportunity to participate in the annual governor's pheasant hunt, which was a huge success in spite of the weather. It is always a great reminder and a great opportunity for me to get away to clear my head, get out in the beautiful country, in the fall in South Dakota, which is a wonderful time of the year, and participate in an activity which has become a trademark and something that is very much a part of our culture in

my State of South Dakota. Oftentimes as I travel in my State when I am back home I will hear from some of my conservative friends who express frustration at the fact that sometimes Washington has not come, or that we have not done enough in terms of changing the culture of this city, that we are not making progress fast enough. What I often try to remind them of is what a difference 4 years has made.

As I look at the progress that has been made here in the last 4 years, I think it is important to keep in perspective from where we have come so we know where we are going. Four short years ago, we had a President who was trying to invent a national health care system, where the government, this huge bureaucracy, would take over the health care system in this country. We saw the largest tax increase in the history not only of this country but, as someone has said, I believe a Senator, the biggest tax increase in the history of the world. And now in 4 short years and after the 1994 election, when those policies were repudiated and the Republicans took majority of the Congress, we began to take action to reverse the culture of this city, and it changed the value system that we have here.

I would like to think that the values that we have brought here as a matter of value, that bigger is not necessarily better and that smaller is better in the area of the Federal Government and that my kids are infinitely better off if we have a Federal Government that is more efficient, more responsive and a better value for the taxpayers. As a basic statement of values, that it is not the government's money, it is in fact the people of this country's money, and they ought to be able to best determine how those dollars are spent. Furthermore, that we do not need Hollywood, as the Vice President suggested last week, to force us to consider what our values ought to be. But as a matter of fact, that we want to give a more active role to parents, to families, to churches, to communities, to allow parents to spend more time with their families so they will not have to work 3 jobs by giving them a lower tax structure so they can have the important role in shaping the values of the future of our country and the future of our kids.

These are the things that I think we are making and the areas where we are making historic progress, as we consider the accomplishments of the past 4 years, welfare reform, the first balanced budget in some 30 years, the first tax relief, lower taxes on American families and businesses and people who are farmers and ranchers in my State for the first time in 16 years. Medicare reform. So many issues we have tackled in this Congress and progress we have made.

The short of it is I believe for the first time in a generation, we have taken bold steps to shift power out of Washington, D.C. and back home to the